

Director of Recreation Report March 2016

1st Annual Snowball's Chance Fat Bike Race

On Saturday and Sunday March 19-20 we opened the new trail system in the watershed property with a Fat Bike Race. The race, organized by Dejay Birtch was a 12 mile loop for beginners and a 24 double loop for the advanced bikers. 30 bikers participated in this year's event. Bikers were led to the trails by police escort from the Erie Tiki Bar on Front St- where registration was held. Feedback from participants and volunteers was awesome! Participants were pleased and impressed with the trails and volunteers were excited to hike and bike themselves. The trails are now open to enjoy. Soon we will be installing trail markers, Trail Head Kiosks, and trail signage throughout the trails. Thank you to the PJ Police, PJ DPW, PJ Volunteer Ambulance Corp, Recreation Commission and the Erie Restaurant for all their help and support.

As for the trails, please remember no motorized vehicles are permitted. Also, **"Pack In and Pack Out- Leave Only Tire Treads and Footprints"**

I have attached a map for you of the trails. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Recreation office.

Easter Candy Dash

This year's dash was held on Saturday, March 27, 2016 at 1:30pm at Church Street Park. We had a beautiful day and a great turnout with **approximately 125 kids** making a dash for candy and prizes. Thank you the Recreation Commission, Wayne Addy, the Port Jervis Modified Softball team and all the other Port Jervis students that helped set-up and breakdown the event.

Spring Port Pride Day

This year's clean- up is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2016. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact the Recreation office if interested.

Parks and Playgrounds

The Recreation Maintenance Staff is working hard to prepare the parks and playgrounds for the spring and summer months. Please if you see something in the parks that needs immediate attention contact the Recreation office. Thank you.

Swings are up, tennis nets at Church Street are up, and picnic tables and garbage cans are out as well. Church Street Park opened on March 7 and Point Peter opened on March 11..

Youth Community Center

Attendance since January 1, 2016 is as follows:

Recreation Room – 1,850 total attendance (147 unduplicated)

Teen Night – 309 total attendance (94 unduplicated)

On Saturday April 23 I will be taking a group of teens to the Middletown YMCA to participate in their Beat the Streets program. Beat the Streets is similar to our Friday Night Teen Program but it offers swimming, basketball and more. YMCA is working with the Recreation Department to provide more recreational activities to our youth. This trip will be FREE of charge and the YMCA will be providing a bus to transport the teens.

Tom Chuckran Cops and Kids Basketball game

On Saturday March 5, 2016 we held our annual basketball game between the 6th grade boys and girls from our winter basketball program and Police from Port Jervis, Deerpark and Pike County Police Departments. The game also served as a food drive for Grace Episcopal Church on Seward Ave. This year's game was a classic with the kids winning in Overtime by the score of 72-71. The kids, volunteer coaches and Police men and women all did a great job. Youth Detective Scott Robertson and Recreation Director John Faggione organized the event delivered the supplies to Grace Episcopal Church.

FYI

1. The 23rd Annual Delaware River Run will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2016. Race time is 9am. We need volunteers on this day so please leave your calendar open. Remember you can register online at www.delawariver5krun.com.
2. The 2nd Annual Tri-State Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday August 7, 2016. Race time will be at 7:00 am. This is an exciting new event we are bringing to PORT and we hope it grows every year!
3. In April DPW will be removing trees and bushes from Orange Square Park. The trees we are removing are over grown and hide the Civil War monument in the park. The bushes are in poor shape and will be replaced with new ones. We will also be installing some new park benches and planting grass seed in much needed areas. They will also clean off and repair the shelter that covers the cannon adjacent to Pike St. This makeover is well overdue and when complete the park will look much better.
4. Summer Recreation Program for 2016 is being worked on. I hope to complete the program booklet by end of April and distributed to the schools in May.
5. Remember to visit our Facebook Page for all of your Recreation news. Search "Port Jervis Recreation" on the Facebook homepage

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016
7:00 pm**